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Dr. Rosenbach's Gift

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membership in the convention but accepts citizenship for himself and his son.

This special library, young as it is, has fortunately inherited the friendship and interest of Dr. Smith's distinguished colleagues in chemistry, who are enthusiastic over the possibilities of the collection as a contribution to the history of science. These men have been generous in contributing material, representing hundreds of books, portraits, and autograph letters, thus doing for it what Mr. Henry Reed Hatfield has done for chemistry in the University Library by installing and equipping a room for the Walter Hatfield Library of Chemistry, a memorial to his brother. In the near future the Smith memorial collection will receive from Dr. Charles A. Browne, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in Washington, D. C., a considerable part of his valuable private collection. Dr. Browne is one of America's foremost scholars in the history of chemistry. To him we are also indebted for one of our greatest treasures, "Conversations with Edgar Fahs Smith," being excerpts from Dr. Browne's diary over a period of years.

Mr. Frederick E. Brasch, Chief of the Smithsonian Division of the Library of Congress, has generously served as consultant in the preparation of a catalogue of the Smith Memorial Library, which we hope will soon appear in print. The Library is fortunate in having the services of Miss Eva V. Armstrong as Curator. As Dr. Smith's former secretary she assisted in assembling the collection.

DR. ROSENBACH'S GIFT

From Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach the Library has recently received a most valuable gift of four incunabula, examples of early products of the press at Venice, Basel, Nuremberg, and Strassburg, printed between 1475 and 1495. The following description of the books has been contributed by Mr. Clifford B. Clapp, Superintendent of the cataloging department of the Library:

The earliest of the four books is part three of the *Summa* of Alexander de Ales or de Hales, entitled *Super tertium sententiarum*; a large copy, with original manuscript foliation, bound in the old leather and wood boards, wormed. This was printed in 1475 by J. de Colonia and J. Manthen, who may be interpreted as Johann of Köln and Johann Man-

then, successors to Wendelin of Speier, a press begun by Johann of Speier in 1469, the first press in Venice.

The Basel work is from the press of Johann Amerbach or Amorbach, 1492, and consists of parts two and three of *Operum Sancti Ambrosii*, edited by Johannes de Lapide. This copy, according to its inscription, appears to have belonged to the monastery of the Friars Minor, Recollects, of Wetzlar. It is bound in two parts in old hard stamped leather.

The *Specula omnis status humane vite* of Dionysius de Leuwis, a quarto of 1495, is one of a small number of works printed from about 1490 to 1500 by Peter Wagner at Nürnberg. The initials are supplied by hand in red. The book has numerous contemporary manuscript notes, and bears the inscription "Bibliothecae Monrij S. Petrij."

Interest attaches to the other work, *Sermones sancti Augustini ad heremitas*, by the so-called Pseudo-Augustinus, as an illustration of the progress of study of early printing, particularly the minute study of individual types, in recent years. This is a beautifully preserved little quarto on crisp white paper. The book is without name of printer or date. When bound by Roger de Coverly in modern vellum with two dark labels, one of these labels attributed it to the press of Martyn Flach, Argentoratum. Shortly thereafter (in 1898), appeared the precious, painstaking Index to incunabula arranged by presses and dates of issue by Robert Proctor, who ascribed this edition of the *Sermones ad heremitas* to the "Printer of the 1493 Casus Breues decretalium [Husner]?" This was in 1898. By 1908, when Pollard, Esdaile, and Scholderer began to issue their *Catalogue of books printed in the xvth century now in the British Museum*, the problem of identifying printers was not only illustrated by the new ascription of this work to Johann Prüss, also of Strassburg, but Mr. Pollard in his introduction discussed this problem at some length. "When we are told," he said, "that Grüninger's type 13 bears certain relations to Prüss type 8, to 'Printer of Casus Breues' type 1, Husner type 6, Flach type 5, and 'Printer of Vitas Patrum' type 4, the problem seems hardly so clearly set before us as by the statement that these six printers all used a text type of which twenty lines measure 80 mm., and that these six 80 types have to be distinguished." The dates given in this British Museum catalog for the Prüss *Sermones* are [c1488-1493]. By 1928 a further step was taken when the *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke* dated the Prüss *Sermones*

not later than 1487. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the *Gesamtkatalog* fully records a "Seitengetreuer Nachdruck" (mentioned by Proctor) as of [Strassburg, Georg Husner, um 1493/94]. The two editions (of which Dr. Rosenbach's gift is the original) have the same number of leaves but the register of signatures is different. And now in 1933 comes the *Check list of fifteenth century books in the Newberry Library*, compiled by Pierce Butler, capping the structure with the date given as [1488] and the printer Johann Prüss.

OTHER RECENT GIFTS

Through the generosity of Mr. Joseph G. Lester the Library has received a copy of *Law Triumphant*, by Violet Oakley. The first volume of this beautifully published work contains a record of the ceremonies at the unveiling of Miss Oakley's mural paintings, "The Opening of the Book of the Law," in the Supreme Court room at Harrisburg, and the artist's journal during the Disarmament Conference at Geneva. The second volume, of plates, contains handsome reproductions of the Supreme Court paintings and of a series of forty-one drawings made by Miss Oakley at the Geneva Conference. Mr. Lester subscribed for a copy of this uniquely valuable work for the Library.

A gift of \$150. was received in the spring from the Society of the Alumni of the College, to be devoted to the purchase of books in American literature.

Gifts recently received from Dr. Charles W. Burr include ten volumes of the 16th and early 17th centuries, mostly editions of and commentaries on Aristotle and other Greek classics.

JOHANNES BRAHMS AND HANS VON BUELOW

By DR. OTTO E. ALBRECHT

One of the most interesting items of the Brahms centenary exhibition at the University Library last May was an unpublished letter from Brahms to von Buelow, lent by Dr. Daniel Gregory Mason of Columbia University. This was briefly referred to in an article in the June number of the